

**BANKS PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE
19 JUNE 2012**

**A meeting of the Banks Peninsula Water Management Zone Committee was held
in Living Springs Auditorium on Tuesday 19 June 2012 at 4.05pm**

PRESENT: Richard Simpson, Community Representative (Chairperson)
Donald Couch, Commissioner Environment Canterbury
Iaeen Cranwell, Te Rūnanga o Wairewa
Steve Lowndes, Community Representative
Councillor Claudia Reid, Christchurch City Council
Pam Richardson, Community Representative
Pere Tainui, Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku
Kevin Simcock, Community Representative
June Swindells, Te Hapu O Ngati Wheke

APOLOGIES: An apology for absence was received and accepted from Wade Wereta-Osborn, Peter Kingsbury and Yvette Couch-Lewis.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 15 MAY 2012

It was **decided** that the minutes of 15 May 2012 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

2.1 RICK MENZIES, BANKS PENINSULA CONSERVATION TRUST

Rick Menzies made a presentation to the Committee regarding biodiversity values of Banks Peninsula waterways (refer **attached**).

2.2 ALICE SHANKS, QUEEN ELIZABETH II TRUST

Alice Shanks, QEII Trust Regional Representative, made a presentation to the Committee regarding biodiversity and the Queen Elizabeth II Trust (refer **attached**).

2.3 CLAIRE FINDLAY, LYTTTELTON / WHAKARAUPU ISSUES GROUP

Claire Findlay made a presentation to the Committee regarding biodiversity and the work of the Lyttelton / Whakaraupo Issues Group (refer **attached**).

3. IDENTIFICATION OF URGENT ITEMS

Nil.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF ANY GENERAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Brooke Turner, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, suggested that fencing is a significant issue in the peninsula particularly where to place them. Brooke considers that this factor will make it hard to restore low land streams.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS

The Committee **decided** to receive an update from the previous workshops held on 15 May and 17 April which covered draft priority outcomes and a skeleton outline for the Zone Implementation Programme. The Committee will make a decision on the draft chapter on community drinking water in Banks Peninsula at the next meeting.

5.2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Committee **decided** to receive the background public health information circulated to the Committee since the 15 May meeting.

5.3 CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

The Committee **decided** to change the next meeting date to 24 July 2012. The meeting will be held at the Wairewa Marae, Little River at 4pm.

6. TIMEFRAMES FOR ZONE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Donald Couch, Environment Canterbury Commissioner, reviewed the timeframes for completion of the Zone Implementation Programme. The Committee identified the need for a further separate workshop in September and three public meetings to consult on the draft zone implementation plan in late September or early October.

7. JOINT BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT DOCUMENT FOR BANKS PENINSULA

Tamsin Page, Environment Canterbury, provided an overview to the Committee on the development of a joint biodiversity management document for Banks Peninsula (refer **attached**). This document will look across all current biodiversity programmes.

The Committee heard that the outcome of the document should be a greater level of coordination between the government agencies; specifically Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council and the Department of Conservation.

8. ECOLOGICAL SURVEY CONDUCTED BY CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Paul Devlin, Area Head Ranger, provided an overview to the Committee of the recent survey conducted in Banks Peninsula to identify and map sites of ecological significance.

The meeting concluded at 6.10pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 24TH DAY OF JULY 2012

**RICHARD SIMPSON
CHAIRPERSON**



BP Biodiversity

benign climate

fertile soils

adequate water ?



South Island Fantail

© Julie Lamb



Biodiversity values of Banks Peninsula waterways

- Biodiversity corridors and linkages.
- Native fish and ecosystems.
- Natural regeneration.



Banks Peninsula streams systems

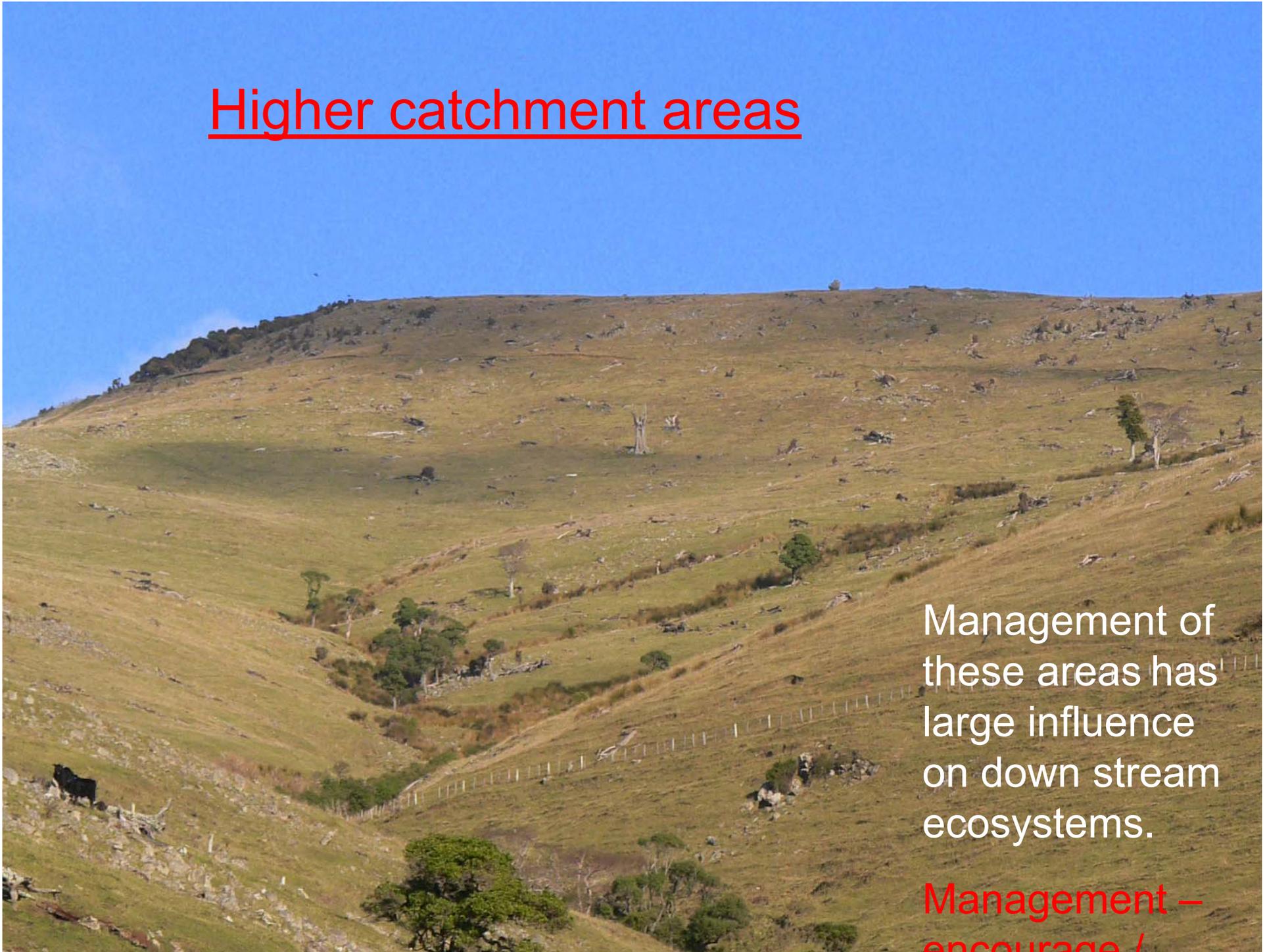


- Higher catchment areas
- Midlevels
- Lower reaches / valley floors

Higher catchment areas

Management of these areas has large influence on down stream ecosystems.

Management – encourage /



Midlevels

Characterised by rocky narrow stream beds, steep hillsides, natural regeneration.

Very difficult / expensive to fence.

Natural regeneration provides both protection and filtering of water

Management – short term, let nature take its course..



Lower reaches / Valley floors

- Easy contours, good clay/loam soils
- Fencing easy, but stock water reticulation required



Management-
Encourage/
assist landowners
to fence

Threats

- Livestock
- Land clearances
- Chemical Spraying / topdressing
- Water extraction

Water extraction



RMA sect. 14 (3) (b)

- In the case of fresh water, the water,... is required to be taken or used for –
- (1) an individual's reasonable domestic needs :
or
- (2) the reasonable needs of an individual's animals for drinking water –
- And the taking or use does not, or is not likely to, have an adverse effect on the environment ;

Minimum flows

- Minimum flows are imposed on surface water abstractions to prevent flows falling below those that would naturally occur.
- These minimum flows are intended to protect the values in the river or stream

But do we have a problem ?

Permitted activities

- Stock water
- Drinking water
- Small takes (Rule WQN1 of NRRP)

- These are not included within surface water allocations and not controlled by minimum flows.





Queen Elizabeth II
National Trust
 For open space in New Zealand
 Nga Kairangi Papa

19 June 2012

QEII Trust: Priorities for Banks Peninsula Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity

An important Year for Queen and Trust

This year the Queen Elizabeth II Trust celebrates its 35th year in conjunction with Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. Named to honour her 25th Jubilee the Trust was set up by the QEII Trust Act (1977) to provide landowners with a legal mechanism and perpetual oversight to secure a feature of their land that they cherish and wish to see retained beyond their tenure.

Overview of QEII covenant statistics in the CWMS Banks Peninsula Zone

Covenant types

- o 54 registered QEII covenants, with another 2 in process of registration
- o 49 of the covenants established to protect biodiversity values, 6 for landscape values, 1 for heritage values
- o 2 Landscape Protection Agreements with Christchurch City Council for roadside biodiversity
- o 1 Life of Trees covenant
- o 791 ha are covenanted primarily for biodiversity values
- o 67 ha are covenanted for landscape and heritage values

Landowner types

41 landowners			
20 live on site		21 live elsewhere	
13 farmers (31%)	8 lifestyle blocks	14 with holiday homes	6 conservation blocks ¹
		8 covenants condition of a Resource Consent for a sub-division	6 covenants associated with holiday homes

¹ set aside for conservation with no associated house or hut

Open Space covenants by main vegetation cover

Fenced Forest	Fenced mosaic of forest, shrubland, and grassland	Fenced Rock outcrop	Farmed Wildlife habitat	Farmed Landscape	Farmed Cultural site
36	11	1	1	6	1

Landowner-Led Conservation: QEII responds to enquires

The Trust does not choose areas to protect; it can only assess areas put forward by landowners. Each covenant proposal is assessed against national and local priorities, and the QEII Board can select for conservation priorities by the differential allocation of funds for fencing, weeds and pest control.

On Banks Peninsula a covenant would receive a high ranking if it contained:

- o a PNAP Recommended Areas for Protection (and soon a City Council SES designation)
- o meets one of the Ministry of Environment's National Priorities for Protection on Private Land (2007) ie Land Environments with less than 20% protected, sand dunes and wetland,
- o Originally Rare Ecosystem type ie coastal rock stack, volcanic seacliffs, boulderfields, tors
- o the presence of Nationally Threatened species eg falcon, Crested grebe, Cooks scurvy grass
- o listed on the Geopreservation Inventory eg Mutiple dykes, Panama rock, Teddington mudflats
- o enlarges an area already set aside for conservation ie contiguous with a DoC Reserve, covenant
- o a letter of support from Hugh Wilson!

Alice Shanks - 80 Colombo Street - Christchurch 8023 - phone 03 337 1256 - email ashanks@openspace.org.nz

QEII turns away the following enquiries (there are always a few exceptional sites and landowners)

- Revegetation projects unless they are self-sustaining (10-15 years old), with eco-sourced plants, and a manageable suite of weeds and pests
- Areas impractical to fence with no natural stock barriers; the cost of fencing is a big barrier
- Areas with chronic weed infestations that need a lot of landowner work eg 80% broom
- Areas with houses or huts, unless they are surveyed out and not just an enlarged back-yard
- Landowners who are not able to contribute money or work-in-kind towards fencing and weed and pest control (a joint contribution is a cornerstone of the QEII Trust)
- Small, fragmented patches that will be prone to weeds once these are no longer browsed down by stock, or long, narrow strips that need a lot of fencing and fence maintenance

Covenanted Works

The first QEII Trust covenant in the Banks Peninsula CWMS Zone was registered in 1985 and a dozen followed in the next 4 years. Although there are still ongoing weeds, pests, and fence maintenance for landowners, on the whole I can only conclude that covenanting works:

- Half have changed ownership - 5 once and 1 twice
- 2 have had stock incursions in the last 2 years, 1 is still not fenced and 2 have flood gates that need regular maintenance
- 2 require sustained weed control - OMB, hawthorn, and broom
- 4 have areas revegetated by owners
- All have had a documented increase in forest cover
- ¾ of the current owners are enthusiastic and carry out work in their covenant
- 2/3rd of the original owners went on to establish another covenant

Funding Priorities for the Future - more of the same

The Peninsula biodiversity is well-documented compared to other regions, thanks in the main to Hugh Wilson's vegetation survey's and exposition of the Peninsula biodiversity. I see no reason not to continue to research, refine, and resource what is happening now, until there is sufficient evidence that it is ineffective or detrimental. We are very prone to inventing something new.

1. **Support Individual landowners** to covenant indigenous biodiversity - targeting landowners with support, expertise and grants for fencing, weeds and pests works - it's cost-effective, increases the protected networks on the Peninsula in unexpected ways, builds up community
2. **Keep up the co-ordinated wild animal control** - individuals cannot cross boundaries to get rid of roaming deer and pigs; an agency is best placed to carry out a strategic extermination plan
3. **Develop a Banks Peninsula Weed Strategy** - use existing information, implemented by well-trained and well-paid staff, across tenure, systematic, monitored, supported by volunteers
4. **Fund BPCT to promote contiguous protected areas between neighbours** - link small, fragmented area into more diverse, more viable conservation areas and minimise fencing
5. **Promote more ecologically variable areas** by encouraging landowners to think about linking ecosystems rather than fencing a bush patch ie bush, streams, spring; coastal forest, cliff and sea
6. **Headline community goals** eg tui, penguin, weta, lizard projects, with measurable milestones
7. **This community likes bold objectives** - why not aim to protect all the valley streams, supported by information about stock-water designs, stock-bridges, and good temporary fencing demonstrations
8. **Research ways of retaining scattered trees, and shrubland copses in the farmed areas** - for landscape amenity, connecting roosts for birds, seed trees, animal welfare
9. **Co-ordination is the key** - help co-ordinate agencies, and researchers, to make the most of the pool of money, administration, and expertise available for Banks Peninsula biodiversity



"To improve the harbour environment and habitat and achieve a fair balance between all interests"

Chair: Claire Findlay, ph 3288930
Support: Melanie Dixon, ph: 3299908

Deputation to the Banks Peninsula Water Management Zone Committee On 19 June 2012 at Living Springs, Lyttelton Harbour/Whakaraupo

Introduction

The mission statement for the Lyttelton Harbour/Whakaraupo Issues Group is:

"To improve the harbour environment and habitat and achieve a fair balance between all interests."

The Group was set up to be community lead. The perspective is wholistic; in terms of :

- Addressing the whole harbour basin – from summit ridge to sea floor and being regarded as a whole interconnected (geo/eco) system.
- Members are derived from the different harbour basin communities and bring their local perspectives to contribute to the whole¹.

Members keenly value the harbour basin's natural (including its biological) environment, and are well informed about the significance of these values. Our 2002 Lyttelton Harbour Residents Survey confirmed that the vast majority of harbour basin residents, along with visitors and non-resident workers, also highly value its natural environment and, for many, this is a key reason for living here. Most of our members are actively involved in measures to maintain and enhance the environment .

A key LHWIG project over the last 10 or so years has been addressing the issue of sedimentation. The Group also participates in policy formulation and considers itself successful in achieving recognition for BP's streams in:

- Natural Resources Regional Plan (ECan)
- Surface Water Strategy (CCC)

In 2010, we co-ordinated development of the Lyttelton Harbour Basin Biodiversity Workshop: Return of the Native (June 27, 2010), and made copies of the guideline *Indigenous Ecosystems of Lyttelton Harbour Basin with Stream Guide*² available to all participants.

¹ Individual Community/Residents Associations attend to their respective individual issues. In the case of many of our groups this includes re-vegetation projects associated with local reserves, coastal and riparian stream margins

² Subtitled *a guide to native plants their ecology and planting*. Lucas Associates, 2005 Reprint with Stream Guide

Our mission statement is explicit and members have visions for 'turning the tide' on ongoing depletions and of 'restoring the dawn chorus' for our part of Aoteroa/New Zealand. We aspire to restoring the abundance of life and food resources that formerly existed here and we welcome supporting and partnering others with similar objectives.

LH/W Indigenous Biodiversity and LH/WIG Key Project: Sedimentation Action Plan

The Group's work on sedimentation is its second major project³. With long held concerns about the rate at which the harbour was in-filling (or shallowing), members considered this, together with the causes, one of the greatest threats to *improving the harbour environment and habitat*. This concern was endorsed by the wider LH/W community during the project planning phase⁴.

Today, research is ongoing but initial findings confirmed accelerated rates of land-derived sediment of up to 10 times pre-European rates entering the harbour⁵. Sedimentation is now more widely acknowledged as a significant issue⁶.

Our Action Plan identified key sources of sediment and the Group is making variable progress in addressing them. Sediment has significant implications for the harbour's streams and local biodiversity as well as the harbour's marine environment.

The following are some key considerations for LH/W. It is noted that while many are applicable to wider BP, some are particular to or have rather more drastic consequences for LH/W, given our drier climate and regular droughts.

- LH/W forms part of 2 Ecological Districts(drier than AH) – defined roughly along its middle for the length of the harbour

³ After successfully establishing the Safer Water Information and Monitoring SWIM programme).

⁴ It included:

- the Project Visioning meeting (2001), followed by
- the 2002 Residents Survey - independently analysed by Opinions Market Research,
- report backs and meetings with 5 different Residents Associations (2003)
- ECan commissioned report on "Sedimentation in the Upper Lyttelton Harbour" (Deirdre Hart, 2004) to identify current sedimentation and harbour circulation patterns. A key finding confirmed land derived sub-catchment sources (distinct from but not excluding sea sources) were highly significant.
- Action Plan to Reduce Land-derived Sedimentation in Lyttelton Harbour (Claire Findlay & Associates, 2004)

⁵ This occurred in two main phases, from 1830 – 1900 and post 1960 to today, and varied in relation to different land use practices It is more fully documented in an article in the Easter 2012 edition of the Lyttelton News/Akaroa Mail. Further copies can be made available.

⁶ Refer State of the Water Resource presentation of 18.10.11 to BPWMZC. Slide 17 on Lyttelton Harbour's Water Quality identifies "sediment is a significant issue for the harbour water and seabed" .

- Stream character differs in different parts of the harbour
 - Northern side - short & steep streams from source to sea, and have smaller catchment areas and many ephemeral flows (some of BP's and Canterbury's steepest ?)
 - Southern side – larger catchments with larger and more permanently flowing streams
- Ephemeral streams are important habitat – but are frequently discounted because their flows are not permanent and therefore may not be managed (fenced) to exclude stock. The flows and ecological values are highly vulnerable to impacts of adjoining land-use practices. Not all ephemeral stream flow characteristics are the same
- Many streams through urban areas have been “undergrounded” or artificially channelled E.g. the 5 streams in “Port” (Lyttelton township) are largely channelled through brick barrelled vaults and enter the sea under the wharves, the streams below the main road in Corsair and Cass bays are in culverts or open concrete chutes.
- Subdivision, urbanisation, and construction have had many adverse effects for decades. The Erosion & Sediment Control Guidelines (2006) have not proven to be fully effective in practice and should be refined/reviewed along with other best practice methods.
- Storm-water (urban & rural) disposal contributes a variety of contaminants – only some are measured
- Road management and tracks have significant impacts:
 - Road “improvements” increase hard surface “catchment” areas – resulting in increased water run-off (to streams or overland) and associated problems (increased contaminant/sediment loads, erosion),
 - Road maintenance is primarily for traffic safety and other values are not (yet?) integrated eg veg clearance can result in loss of habitat, slope failures, increases in sediment etc
 - Unvegetated “cuttings” are prone to ongoing collapse & provide a constant source of sediment. (Veg pre-trials to minimise slope collapse & sediment, ongoing maintenance costs, and enhance habitat/ecological corridors)
- Larger scale forest blocks are reaching maturity for harvesting – in the upper harbour catchments and on Moepuku Point. These will be some of the most significant land clearances since 19th century and will be test cases for the impacts on local streams and upper harbour mudflats under current management protocols and methods.
- Rural land continues to be “land banked” or subdivided into small holdings:
 - More frequent changes in ownership tend to result in variable commitments to sustainable land management practices.
 - BPDistrict Plan provisions - more liberal than for City Plan rural zones⁷ and rural earthwork standards easier (eg for access and building platforms on steep slopes)
- Changes in stock, grazing regimes and vegetation clearances - alter soil and vegetation, stream flows, stream sediments loads, and

⁷ 1 dwelling per 40>4 hectares under BPDP, 1 dwelling per 100 ha in City Plan.

localised harbour sedimentation (anecdotal & researched reporting of effects on a number of different streams)

- Quarrying – has resulted in ongoing and constantly visible sediment to adjoining stream but is not being quantified
- Head of the Harbour remnant wetland Remnant saltmarsh vegetation and bird habitat values have been recognised formally (i.e. policy documents of different agencies) for some 15 – 20 years but have not resulted in significant ecological gains or addressed wider values (cultural, marine habitat, historic, amenity etc). Current RMA generated work is acknowledged as initial step - with diplomacy required. An initial programme was devised with the former Regional Biodiversity Coordinator. With collaborative approach this could again be one of LH/W's and BP's great natural areas.

Actions sought

The following actions are sought:

1. Acknowledge the seriousness of the sedimentation issue for LH/W, its waters and ecology/biodiversity, and recognise the impacts need to be accounted for in virtually all decision-making
2. Support research for quantifying different sediment sources within and across catchments
3. Collaborate in determining acceptable targets - benchmarking and monitoring sediment transfer and deposition e.g. sediment and other contaminants in streams, acceptable rates of sedimentation in harbour (eg return to re- European rates)
4. Recognise ephemeral streams - and manage in water management, biodiversity and other related programmes
5. Determine a programme to improve and naturalize highly modified streams (and their outlets) for habitat values – as/when possible.
6. Seek the refinement/review effectiveness of Sediment & Erosion Control Guidelines and other best practice methods.
7. Recognise potential for ecological corridors along road network, with integrated management objectives and protocols:
 - Lead and educate through some best practice examples and develop principles/operational standards to guide indigenous vegetation and pest management (as per urban areas)
 - minimise sediment into receiving natural water systems through use of sediment traps in urban areas (as per Infrastructure Design Guideline) and “naturalized” methods elsewhere
 - If pre-trial work proves successful, support full trial work on road cuttings and stormwater disposal
8. Monitor effects on streams and harbour sedimentation of forest harvesting and other significant vegetation clearances and, as appropriate, review procedure
9. Ensure various statutory provisions, policy and management practices are constructive in enhancing environmental and biodiversity gains, including:
 - Combining of BPDP & City Plan

- CCC “global” stormwater consent is informed by and guided by an effective LH/W Surface Water Management Plan
10. Promote awareness and education programmes throughout the community; lead attitude shifts to valuing streams for biodiversity (v. stormwater and sediment disposal), include internal programmes for improving best practice
 11. Collaborate in developing a sound and effective programme for reinvigorating the Head of the Harbour wetland area for its multiple values and as one of LH/W’s and BP’s “great natural areas”.

Joint Biodiversity Management Document for Banks Peninsula

Improving agency coordination in
biodiversity management on
Banks Peninsula

Purpose

- To assist in achieving improved coordination & alignment between core agencies involved in biodiversity management on Banks Peninsula

Background

- BP Conservation Forum meeting November 2010
- + growing levels of activity & engagement re biodiversity on BP
- + unique geographic context & high biodiversity values
- + CCC/BPDC merger

All highlighted need for greater coordination and alignment between agencies

Document Contents

- shared aim
- overarching objectives
- core priorities
- process for regular inter-agency planning & coordination
- overview of roles, functions & areas of overlap; legislative & policy context
- collation of known current programmes & initiatives (agency, NGO, community etc.)

Basis of Document

- Existing agency ‘drivers’
 - e.g.: RMA, Conservation Act, Reserves Act, NZ Biodiversity Strategy, National Statement of Priorities, NHMS, Regional Biodiversity Strategy, RPMS, CMS, CWMS, RPS, NRRP, City/District Plan, Christchurch Biodiversity Strategy, War on Pests...
- Collation, review & alignment analysis to ‘boil down’ to core objectives & priorities
- “Stocktake” of biodiversity-related programmes & initiatives on BP

Key Points

- A collation, concentration and reflection of existing, NOT a 'greenfields' exercise
- Provide a common point of reference to guide decision-making & actions, & against which to progressively review operational programmes/initiatives
- Primarily a tool for improved inter-agency coordination but ALSO provides indication to community & others of agency focus & priorities
- Non-statutory document & not legally binding

Aim & Objectives

- Shared aim:

“Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitat, national priority ecosystems, and threatened plant and animal species are identified and protected. Sites are actively managed to maintain existing values, and wherever practicable to enhance and restore degraded values. Other areas and habitats are protected and/or restored in order to maintain ecological resilience and a full range of healthy, functioning ecosystems and habitats.”

- **Objectives:**

1. Increased community awareness and valuing of biodiversity, leading to more active involvement in protection and restoration initiatives. This is supported by readily accessible, relevant and robust information and technical expertise.
2. Agencies take a coordinated approach to biodiversity management, with a focus on partnerships and working collaboratively with iwi, landowners and communities.
3. Continual improvement in existing knowledge of indigenous biodiversity on Banks Peninsula through the maintenance and coordination of monitoring and research that provides appropriate information to guide management actions and decisions, including prioritisation of biodiversity protection and management and the effectiveness of particular actions.

• **Priorities:**

Still being refined...but likely to include:

Overarching priorities:

- Threatened environments and ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, sand dunes, native vegetation remnants)
- Naturally rare or distinctive ecosystems and habitats (e.g. rock outcrops, coastal cliffs and rock stacks, Kaitorete Spit)
- Habitats of nationally and locally threatened, restricted and locally endemic species

‘How’ priorities:

e.g. protect priority sites, then build out from these + linkages/stepping stones to build resilience & ecological functioning; build on existing initiatives; partnerships & collaboration

Specific priorities:

e.g. DOC ecosystem & species priorities; priority pests & weeds